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FCC comments

re: RM-10783

I see by the ARRL Newsletter that you are accepting comments on the Morse Code requirement issue and would like to make mine.

I have been an amateur for over 10 years and got my license when you first dropped the morse code requirements for the technician license. I am 68 years old and ever since I was a boy scout I have been unable to learn morse code due to a learning disability in this regard. I would like to now expand my horizon with HF but cannot due to the archaic requirement of learning a code that is unnecessary in the current world. I'm sure there are a few that love to use it and do. More power to them. I wish I could. I understand there are electronics that listen to the transmission of code and print out what it says. This is great. Why then are many amateurs being kept out of an important contribution to emergency services and public services? I have volunteered many hours for the public welfare and am now on our local Emergency Management team for communications. I can't however transmit on anything other than 6m, 2m, 220, and 440. Some of our equipment goes beyond those frequencies and it would be nice to make contact with others outside these frequency limits. Since medical problems are preventing me from doing many things I previously enjoyed this hobby is about all I have left. I don't even take the General test since it would be of no use without the code test. Many amateurs that studied for their higher licenses and were able to learn the code have never used code since and admit they could not use it now if they had to. It's similar to studying for a text in French, just to pass it, but have never used it in later life. While reading a lot of message boards on the internet I feel I am in the majority in the way I feel. Some nations have already discarded the code and the trend is for many more following suit in the near future. The US needs to be the leader in this issue.

The time has come to allow us to participate in a great amateur service and I know that those of us that take the written tests, perform professionally, and practice good procedures on the radio would ever stoop to the level of the CB crowd. It is not in us and abhorrent to what we believe.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

David J. Duffey